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Statement of Work

1. Title: The Transport of Radionuclides Following a Radiological Incident: A Literature Review

Contractor Name: Eastern Research Group

Contract #: EP-D-11-006

WA#: 4-14

WAM: Sangdon Lee, 919-541-4531

II. Background:

Contamination by means of a radiological incident presents a potentially dangerous situation that has the capacity to expose both people and infrastructure to radioactive materials. The magnitude of such an event is further enhanced by the diffusive nature of radioactive particulates and the heightened presence of particle transport mechanisms within urban environments. In a relatively short period of time, contaminants may migrate to previously clean areas, increasing the extent of contamination. There are few options in regards to sequestering source emissions, atmospheric transport, or surface migration. Limiting the extent of contamination, let alone remediation, would likely require a significant amount of resources and time. As with the environment in which they are released, the source of contamination will influence the magnitude and overall behavior of radioactive material. One source of interest is Radiological Dispersal Devices (RDDs). RDDs are designed to disperse radioactive material with intentions of exposing people and contaminating surfaces. Although likely ineffective at heavily contaminating large areas or exposing vast amounts of people to radiation, RDDs are capable of contaminating targeted areas of interest, disrupting normal activities, inflicting major economic implications, and invoking fear. The radioactive material needed to construct a RDD is fairly easy to appropriate. Such materials are often found in industrial, research, and medical settings. Large-scale tests assessing the dispersion and surface transport of radioactive particles associated with RDDs are limited because their hazardous nature makes the use of outdoor releases for testing purposes very difficult. Accordingly, there is very little literature documenting the probable outcome of such an event. There is, however, an abundance of literature addressing nuclear weapons (NWs) and nuclear power plant (NPP) accident research. It is for this purpose a review of literature conducive to radiological incidents has been conducted. By characterizing NPPs and NWs, conjectures in regards to the transport of radionuclides analogous to RDDs can hopefully be made. Such data could promote more informed response and recovery decisions when responding to RDD incidents.

III. Technical Approach:

The purpose of this effort is to develop a literature review document containing overview and analysis of the current state of knowledge related to radiological contaminant transport. This document seeks to characterize radionuclide fate and transport from the previous NPP accidents and NWs and to extract the transport mechanism information that may be applicable to RDDs. Currently, the literature search is complete and the article database is available.

IV. Task:

The Contractor shall prepare an EPA format report by aggregating the resources that the EPA Work Assignment Manager will provide. The resources will include the EPA approved Quality Assurance Project Plan for literature search (In-house Literature Review of Radiological Contaminant Spreading Mechanisms approved on 6/6/2014), the articles identified from the literature search, and the article summary document. The Contractor shall develop a draft report suitable for publication as an EPA report within 2 months of award. The Contractor shall receive the EPA's review comments within 1 month after award. The Contractor shall deliver the revised report within 1 month upon receiving the EPA's review comments. The Contractor shall have periodic meetings (e.g., biweekly) to report the work progress.